

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Victory Racing Plate Co.

University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program

Victory Racing Plate Company Increases Workspace and Streamlines Operations

Client Profile:

Victory Racing Plate Company is a manufacturer of aluminum horseshoes and reseller of related products for the horse racing industry. Founded in 1929, the company has a complete array of processes required to make horseshoes from forming and forging to heat treating and punching. Victory Racing Plate employs 30 people at its facility in Baltimore, Maryland.

Situation:

Victory Racing Plate Company's approach to the design and manufacturing of horseshoes for the racing industry enabled the company to remain a major player in the marketplace. The growth in overall product sales and the number of product types stored in finished goods inventory led to a crowded workspace with inefficient process flows, lower productivity, and inadequate control of work-in-process (WIP) and finished goods inventory. Victory Racing Plate contacted the University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program (UMMAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate formerly known as the Maryland Technology Extension Service, for help with increasing their workspace and streamlining manufacturing and warehousing operations.

Solution:

UMMAP worked closely with the company to develop and analyze alternative layouts to improve operations. The solution was to lease an additional facility and separate the company's manufacturing and warehousing operations. The increased space allocated for manufacturing operations enabled selected equipment to be relocated to improve product flow in accordance with Lean manufacturing principles. The WIP inventory and tool and die storage areas were reorganized to enable better control with less time wasted looking for materials. The finished goods warehouse was reorganized with a well-defined product pricing and packaging area laid out in close proximity to the storage racks containing the high volume products. All finished good items were assigned to designated bin locations, and staging areas were defined for pallets awaiting shipment.

Results:

- * Realized \$30,000 in cost savings.
- * Reduced WIP and finished good inventory by over \$100,000.

Testimonial:

"The relationship between UMMAP and Victory Racing Plate Company has been invaluable in our quest of continuous process improvements utilizing Lean manufacturing principles. The UMMAP staff is extremely knowledgeable, experienced, interactive and professional. Victory Racing Plate Company, its customers and employees have benefited from this relationship, and we look forward to working with UMMAP again on our next project."

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Bob Rivas, Director of Operations